

NEWS RELEASE - EXAMPLE

For immediate release

Commented [1]: You can all include an embargo if you're news is time sensitive.

“Towns on the Finance Secretary’s nice list ” says Scotland’s towns chief

Scotland’s Towns Partnership welcomes £50m Towns fund in Scottish Budget ahead of Christmas.

Commented [2]: HEADLINE

The Chief Officer of Scotland’s Towns Partnership, Phil Prentice, has welcomed Derek Mackay’s new £50m Town Centre Fund, announced in the Scottish Budget, as a timely boost for communities ahead of the festive period.

Commented [3]: Summary opening paragraph

The Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Economy and Fair Work made the announcement in the Scottish Government’s [Draft Budget 2019-20](#). A new ring-fenced £50 million Town Centre Fund for 2019-20 has been allocated within the local authority capital settlement to drive local economic activity and to stimulate and support place based and future looking economic improvements to town centres.

The Budget notes that the Scottish Government will work in partnership with COSLA, the enterprise agencies, Scotland’s Towns Partnership and local authorities to deliver the investment. It further notes that the fund will complement a wider package of business support to ensure that Scotland’s town centres are diverse, thriving and sustainable places for everyone.

Commented [4]: Background/more detail to issue

STP is the national body for Scotland’s towns and all those who work to support the country’s towns and city districts; a hub to help people learn, connect, find practical support and advice, and share good practice and knowledge. It is a repository for a wealth of intelligence around the Town Centre Action Plan and other policy conversations, and helps to support open-access resources such as the Understanding Scottish Places town data tool.

The organisation’s deep rooted knowledge of the towns landscape and extensive range of services supports the Scottish Government’s ongoing commitment to secure a positive future for Scotland’s towns.

Commented [5]: Background to organisation

Speaking after the Budget, Phil Prentice, Chief Officer of Scotland’s Towns Partnership said:

“It’s clear that Santa has had a word with the Finance Secretary ahead of the Budget this year, as the announcement of a new £50m Town Centre fund is a really welcome confidence boost ahead of the festive period.

"It's no secret that Scotland's town centres have faced many challenges, from the aftermath of the last recession to the growth of online retail. However, we are beginning to see our town centres emerge as a new force for social good - a crucial community asset that local people want to see thrive. People now see town centres as community hubs with a real social offering with a movement towards lifestyle services, food and drink, digital and tourism".

"This investment will give town centres some new momentum as we move into 2019, but it's important that we continue to work together across sectors to shape the future and invest in a forward-looking and innovative vision. Over the coming year, Scotland's Towns Partnership will continue to support the Scottish Government, COSLA, and our members to deliver this."

Commented [6]: Quote from organisation

STP is also responsible for Scotland's Improvement Districts, the national support hub for the country's Business Improvement Districts, which will likewise form a key part of this forward-looking vision for towns and city districts across Scotland.

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1. For media inquiries, contact Gareth Brown, gareth@messagematters.co.uk / 07907 520 571
2. The specific Scottish Budget announcement can be found on Page 2 [here](#).
3. More information on Scotland's Towns Partnership can be found [here](#).

Commented [7]: Notes for the newspaper, not for publication. Extra background/contact details.